



*Georgia Department of Public Health*

# **Public Health in the U.S.**

**Christine J. Wiggins**

**Deputy Director, Planning and Partnerships**

**Chronic Disease Prevention Section**

**September 13, 2016**



*We Protect Lives.*

# Foundation of Public Health

# What is Public Health?

- Public Health promotes and protects the health of people and the communities where they live, learn, work, and play (APHA).



# Public Health

## Vision

- Healthy people in healthy communities

## Mission

- Promote physical and mental health
- Prevent disease, injury, and disability



# History of the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service

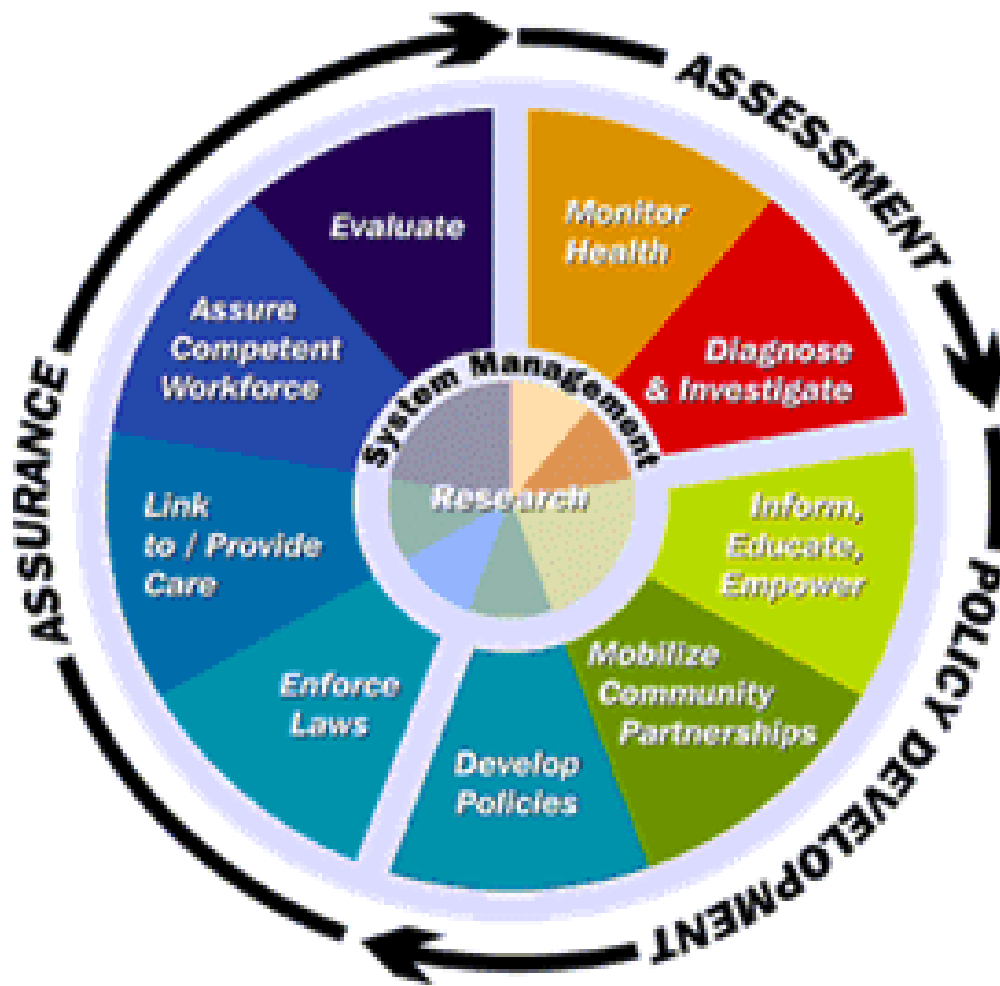
The Commissioned Corps traces its beginnings back to the U.S. Marine Hospital Service protecting against the spread of disease from sailors returning from foreign ports and maintaining the health of immigrants entering the country. Currently, Commissioned Corps officers are involved in health care delivery to underserved and vulnerable populations, disease control and prevention, biomedical research, food and drug regulation, mental health and drug abuse services, and response efforts for natural and man-made disasters as an essential component of the largest public health program in the world.



# 3 Core Functions of Public Health



# 10 Essential Services of Public Health



# Ten Great U.S. Public Health Achievements in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century (1900-1999)

- Vaccination
- Motor-vehicle safety
- Safer workplaces
- Control of infectious diseases
- Decline in deaths from coronary heart disease and stroke
- Safer and healthier foods
- Healthier mothers and babies
- Family planning
- Fluoridation of drinking water
- Recognition of tobacco use as a health hazard



*We Protect Lives.*

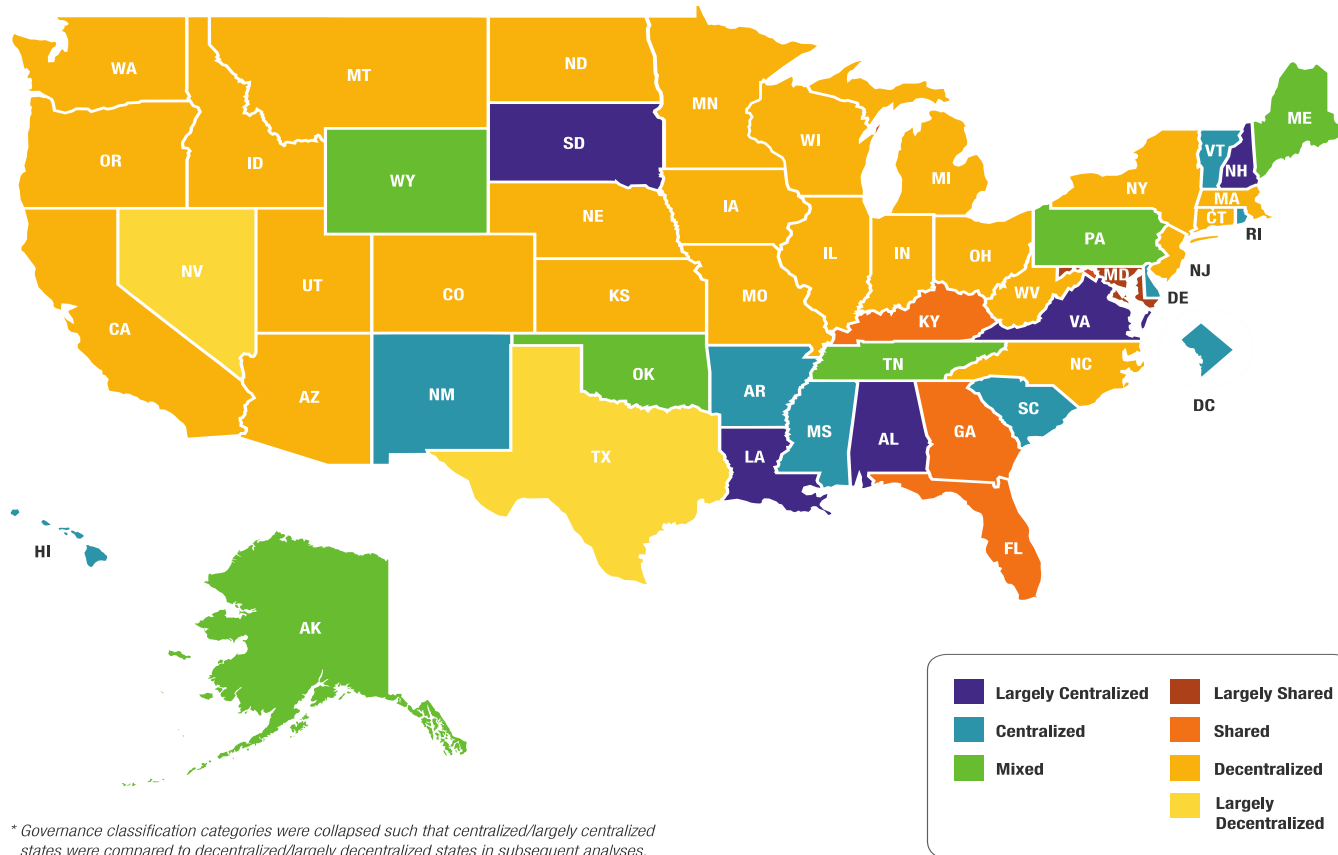


# Public Health in the U.S.

# Public Health Professionals/Disciplines

- Physicians
- Nurses
- Masters of Public Health
- Health Educators
- Social Workers
- Navigators
- Community Health Workers/Promotoras
- Epidemiologists
- Evaluators
- Environmental Health
- Infectious Disease
- Mental Health
- Nutritionists
- IT

# Governance Classifications for Public Health Departments



Source: Association of State and Territorial Health Officials.  
 ASTHO Profile of State Public Health, Volume Three. Washington,  
 DC: Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. 2014.

# Organizations that Address Public Health

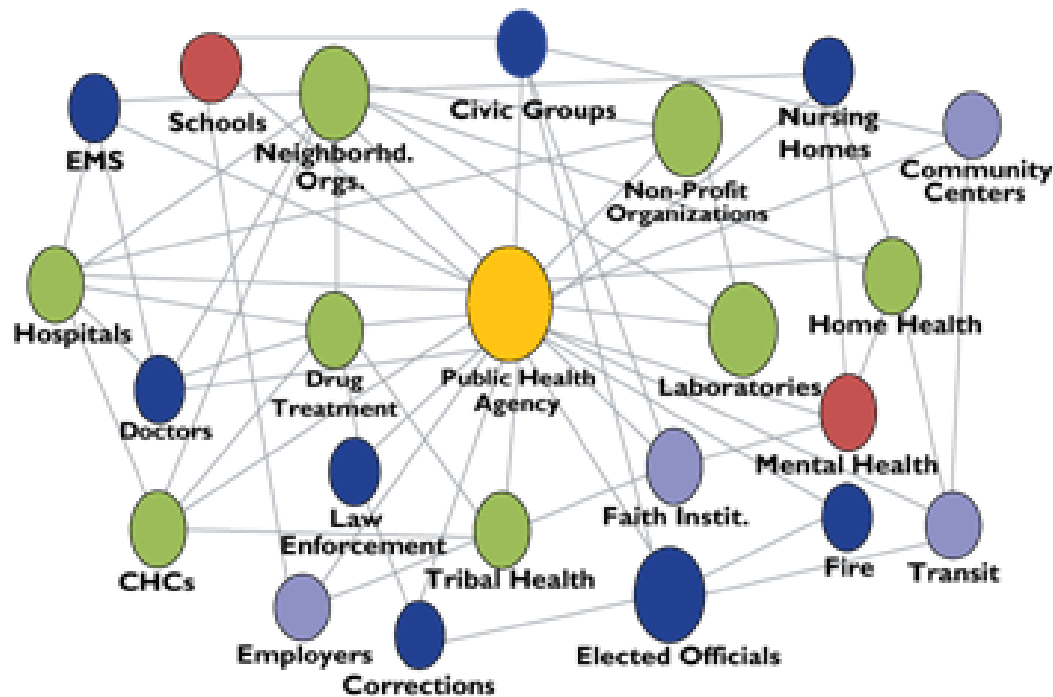
- **Government**
  - Federal, state, local, tribal
- **Healthcare**
  - Continuum of care
- **Educational Institutes**
  - Workforce
- **Managed Care Organizations (MCOs)**
  - Disease management and prevention
- **Corporations and Businesses**
  - Worksite Wellness
- **Non-Profits**
  - Consumer Advocacy groups

# Federal and National Public Health Agencies/Organizations

- CDC is the lead premiere public health agency for the U.S.
- American Public Health Association is a national organization that champions the health of all people and communities
- ASTHO is a national non-profit organization representing public health agencies in the U.S.



# Public Health System



# Recent Public Health Events

# Hurricane Katrina

- The largest residential disaster in U.S. history
- 80% of New Orleans was flooded
- At least 986 deaths are attributed to Katrina
- More than 1 million people displaced
- \$135 billion in total damages



\*Source: Data Center Research, August 2016  
<http://www.datacenterresearch.org/data-resources/katrina/facts-for-impact/>



# Zika Virus

- Viral disease transmitted to people by mosquitos
- Can also be transmitted from mother to fetus and through sexual contact
- Outbreaks are occurring in multiple countries
- Local transmissions have been reported in Florida
- 80 confirmed travel-related cases in Georgia
- No cure; prevention and restricted travel is recommended



# Gun Violence

- Leading cause of premature death
- Guns kill approximately 30,000 people and cause 60,000 injuries each year
- APHA and other organizations calling for violence prevention policies



# Opioid Epidemic

- More people died from drug overdoses in 2014 than any year on record
- In March 2015 HHS Sec. Burwell announced an initiative to tackle opioid epidemic
- 174 overdoses in 6 Days in Cincinnati (August 2016)



# Public Health Department Accreditation

# Public Health Department Accreditation

- The measurement of health department performance against a set of nationally recognized, practice-focused and evidenced-based standards.
- The issuance of recognition of achievement of accreditation within a specified time frame by a nationally recognized entity.
- The continual development, revision, and distribution of public health standards.
- The goal of the voluntary national accreditation program is to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing the quality and performance of Tribal, state, local, and territorial public health departments.
- The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) is the governing body.



# PHAB Accreditation

- As of 8/24/16, 16 state and local health departments, including 1 tribal health department, has achieved accreditation
  - Gwinnett/Newton/Rockdale County Health Departments are included in this number
- Georgia DPH is currently going through the process of being accredited
  - The State Health Improvement Plan is currently available for public comment  
(<https://dph.georgia.gov/sites/dph.georgia.gov/files/DRAFT%20State%20of%20Georgia%20Health%20Improvement%20Plan%20008192016.pdf>)

# QUESTIONS/COMMENTS



# Sources

- Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (<http://www.cdc.gov/>)
- Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service (<http://www.usphs.gov/>)
- Public Health Accreditation Board (<http://www.phaboard.org/>)
- (1988). The Future of Public Health: IOM Report (updated 2002)
- ASTHO Profile of State Public Health: Vol 3 (2014)
- Data Center Research (<http://www.datacenterresearch.org/> )
- American Public Health Association (<https://www.apha.org/>)